Curriculum

At the present time, black related materials in courses is minimal. Several departments have made recognizeable efforts while others have made little efforts. The majority of the existing black related materials was implanted by professors not departments. Only two departments have established black studies courses as part of their permanent curriculum.

In an effort to encourage and establish black related materials, the college should develop a Black Studies concentration. This concentration should be interdepartmental. At the present time, the History department offers a black history course and the American literature department offers a black literature course. These courses would be included along with two courses that could be entirely devoted to black studies. Two other departments will have to step forward to initiate these courses.

Middlebury should begin to give black related materials serious consideration. Courageous steps must be taken by departments and administration in these areas if improvements are to be made.

The Economics department appears to have a strong interest in black related issues. This interest is manifested amoung several professors who believe that moat Middlebury students should understand economic racism. This effort to educate students should became conern of the entire department.

Approximately fifteen courses in the department address issues not related to theory. Amoung these fifteen, five address issues in black studies. Two courses give particularly strong attention to black concerns. EC 360 and Ec 430. It is important that these courses remain part of curriculum. These courses should be supported by the department because few students realize the importance of this material. The department might consider including black studies

concerns in several other courses so that the majority of majors are exposed to this material. The department appears to be equipped to teach these concerns and at the present time. Staffing is not a consideration that effects increased black related materials in the course offering.

The Art department stated that they did not instruct black american art as a separate movement . At the present time the department does not find validity in the studies of black art.

The department has not given adequate thought to black art. Art is color blind and movements should not be studied along racial lines. Although this is true much of the contributions of black artists have been obscured from the public and critics. It is important that the department realize that wealth of unknown information about black artistic achievements from Africa to America is being ignored. Black art should not be studied as a seperate movement in the art curriculum, but the achievements of black artists should be interwoven into studies of American art.

The Art department does give extensive attention to African art. The department has offered African arts studies in winter term courses. The department plans to extend studies in this area. The present attitude of the Art department toward black art must end. The department should seek to the study of American art.

The History department has made a commitment to black related materials. Within the American history section of the department, six of twelve courses touch black issues. In the future, professors should continue to intergrate black issues into courses. More extensive coverage could be given in several courses by focusing on materials written by black americans. There are a number of

creditable black historiams whose use should not be limited to black history courses.

At the present time the black history course should be expanded. The interest and necessity of this material cannot be ignored. In the future, the department should consider offering two black history courses. The courses could alternate from year to year. This would relieve the staffing pressures. The courses could divide black history into two time periods. This would give ample coverage to all materials.

The Political Science department has made a commitment to black related materials which is born from professors' interest. Approximately 40% of the courses within American Political Institutions address black issues.

Within the existing offerings the department does an adequate job addressing issues. In the future, if the department wishes to improve the attention given to black political actions it must consider courses with new perspectives. Courses might focus on political actions of black organizations such as PS 310 Political Parties and Interest Groups in America. The department should consider new perspectives and re-examine current courses.

Blues, Gospel and Jazz otherwise known as Black Classical music, have influenced all aspects of modern music in America. In the pastthe music department has failed to acknowledge these music forms in both curriculum and performances they sponsor. This sitiuation has existed for a long period of time and the department does not intend to make any measurable effort to improve this deficiency. Many students have a strong interest in jazz and sporatic jazz events and studies have been well recieved in the past. The interest and abilities of both music and non majors should be kept in mind when planning courses.

Courses and materials should include Black musical forms especially those concentrating on American musical forms. Also, the department should consider outside instruction of jazz. A jazz performer in residence much li like the Elysian Trioor John Cage willimprove both the students and the music departments knowledge of this institution. These suggestions are only a few methods of solving such a deficiency in a liberal arts college. Our most immediate concern is the departments present attitude toward this mainstream of American music.

Within the American Literature department, a commitment has been made to the teaching of a course in black literature every other year. The department considers black literature an integral aspect of its study of literature as related to historical and cultural trends. Among the writers covered in the past have been Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, James Baldwin and W. E. B. Dubois. However, in light of events such as Baldwin's Notes on a Native Son going out of print, the possibility of offering a course devoted entirely to black literature may be lessened. We recommend that every effort be made to continue the course in black literature, yearly if possible, as it is crucial to a well-rounded curriculum in black studies.

Currently, the Religion department deals with black religious thought in a small number of courses, particularly those dealing with American religious thought. As a result, the committee recommends the creation of a course devoted to the study of black religious thought. The department has stated that they refuse to sacrifice any of their current offerings and due to faculty hiring freezes are unable to add further course offerings.

The French department is dedicated to the study of black issues in a French context. Their orientation is towards the study of the literature of French-African nations and the French-speaking island cultures. The department has integrated literature from these areas into their courses at many levels. The extensive movie series offered by the French department contains several films that address French-African issues. We recommend that the French department continue to work towards increasing their level of black studies if possible. The departmental attitude is one of enthusiasm and we praise the department for its ex-

tensive efforts in the study of French-speaking black cultures.

The study of black sociology is addressed in several courses within the Sociology department. SA 354, Ethnic Groups in America, devotes an entire section of its material to the study of black sociological issues. in America. We therefore recommend that the Sociology department maintain its current level of study of vlack sociology but also attempt to augment their offerings whenever possible.

The Psychology department deals with black issues in only one of its courses and only very briefly. Students are currently dissatisfied with the Psychology department's offerings claiming them to be antiquated in many ways. The committee strongly recommends the establishment of a course devoted to black psychological issues in America on an extensive level. The depart chairman's attitude seemed to be less than enthusiastic. We find the lack of a course that effectively addresses black issues to be shocking at an institution of higher learning with the academic stature that Middlebury College possesses.

Library holdings in the area of black studies within sociology, religion, American literature, psychology, and French to be good. All of the department chairmen interviewed expressed their eagerness to order books within their disciplines to add to the current Starr Library holdings.